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Application No. 10/602,173 - - - - 2

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-24 (canceled).

Claim 25 (original): An adjustable dilator assembly comprising:

an elongated hollow housing that terminates at one end in a cannula, has an opposite open end, and defines an internally threaded axial through passageway in communication with the cannula;

an elongated, externally threaded probe carriage threadably received into the elongated hollow housing through the open end thereof, having a threaded distal end portion and a proximal end portion provided with a grip; and

a probe mounted to the probe carriage at the distal end portion thereof, extendable through the cannula, and mounted for adjustable axial movement within the housing and the cannula in response to manipulation of the probe carriage.

Claims 26-28 (canceled).

Claim 29 (new): The adjustable dilator assembly of claim 25, wherein a distal end portion of the probe includes a brushing device.

Claim 30 (new): The adjustable dilator assembly of claim 25, wherein a distal end portion of the probe includes a taper and terminates in a rounded tip.

Claim 31 (new): The adjustable dilator assembly of claim 25, wherein the probe is removably secured to a probe carriage.

Claim 32 (new): The adjustable dilator assembly of claim 25, wherein a distal end portion of the probe is porous.

Claim 33 (new): The adjustable dilator assembly of claim 25, wherein at least a distal end portion of the probe is pliable.